**Purpose:** Have students connect and get personal with the text

**Genre:** Assignment (Transmedial)

**Audience:** 4th grade students

**Engagement:** Students will understand that everyone has rough times in their lives they have to face and that we all deal with them differently.

Art Project: *Stargirl*

**Directions:** After reading *Stargirl*, think about the hardships she had to go through. Put yourself in her shoes. How would you feel about being the new student at a school when you never attended public school before, or if you have been in this situation, reflect on how you felt when this happened. Would you try to fit in or keep your personality and see who likes you for yourself? Another way you can look at it is by putting yourself in the eyes of Stargirl’s peers. What is your first impression of her? Would you want to get to know her or just judge her? Are you going to try to make her fit in like Leo did or let her keep acting differently?

Once you figure out which perspective you want to portray, you are going to create an art project. It can be a poster, a comic strip, or a diorama. This project is you see how you relate to the book. After you are done with this part, you are going to write two paragraphs. The first paragraph will explain why you created your product and the relationship between you and the book. The second paragraph will contain your reaction to the ending of the story. Is this how you wanted it to end? If not, what would you have wanted to see? This project is based on your own experiences and opinions. There is no right or wrong answer and remember to be as creative as you want to be.

Reason to pick this genre

Every student can relate to thins book in some way. They could have been the new student, or a new student was part of their class. Also, as humans we tend to judge people by their covers instead of getting to know them first. In schools, more and more of this is happening and children react to it differently. In the news, we see students getting bullied and Stargirl was one of those students. She was shunned, called names, and she even had a tomato thrown at her. Young students can’t be themselves without being made fun of in some sort of way. Stargirl, on the other hand, ignored all their rude comments and kept on being herself. In my opinion, I think she was trying to show her peers that they should live their life the way they want to without being judged by your friends. A quote from *Pleasures of Children’s Literature* that I think fits this is, “When Wilbur the pig learns he can’t spin webs like Charlotte the spider, he realizes how much he like who he is and aspires to stay alive—a goal he can and does reach” (p. 154). This quote means that students should learn to love themselves for who they are, not who others want them to be. We know what is best for ourselves, so we have to find it. Young children will try to fit in all the time. This book can teach us that the best way to fit in is to be yourself. In the story, Stargirl had friends even when people where shunning her.

Many students might not understand what it’s like being bullied or being the new kid in school. However, everyone has seen others get picked on, whether they know it or not. This is how I related to the book. I was always the girl who would be nice to everyone, even if it was someone I didn’t like or someone who everyone else picked on. Being you is the most important part, which is what I did. I never gave into the peer pressures of trying to fit into another click or making fun of others even if everyone else was doing that.